

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:CFE

APPROVED BY E:CROBINSON

NEA:SSOBER

S/S:REWOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030401

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REFS: (A) TUNIS 0075; (B) TUNIS 0211; (C) TUNIS 0457

FOR UNDER SECRETARY TABOR

1. USG IS PREPARED ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE JC WITH TUNISIA CONSISTENT WITH GOT'S DESIRE FOR INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK THAT COULD ADDRESS OUR OVERALL RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR MAY PROPOSE TO GOT ESTABLISHMENT OF JC TO PROMOTE AND INTENSIFY U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONS ON BROAD SCALE IN FIELDS SUCH AS TRADE AND ECONOMIC COLLABORATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND SECURITY MATTERS. AMBASSADOR SHOULD NOTE THAT WE SEE MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES IN FIELDS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND WILL WISH TO GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THOSE FIELDS UNDER THE JC. BEGIN FYI: WE WILL WISH TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS CONSIDERATION IN JC OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEVELS. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE
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WE EXPECT DISCUSSION OF THOSE SUBJECTS AS WELL AS OTHER ON-

GOING PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE FUNDAMENTALLY THROUGH OUR NORMAL EXISTING CHANNELS. END FYI.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS U.S. CHAIRMAN OF JC, WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, CHARLES W. ROBINSON, AS HIS DEPUTY. (WE ASSUME FOREIGN MINISTER WILL WISH CHAIR JC ON TUNISIAN SIDE.)

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO INFORM GOT THAT WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE NEED FOR PERMANENT WORKING GROUPS UNDER JC. AD HOC WORKING GROUPS COULD BE CREATED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AS NEED ARISES. FOR EXAMPLE, AN AD HOC U.S. WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT MIGHT TRAVEL TO TUNIS LATER THIS YEAR.

4. WE WISH TO ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF JC AT TIME OF STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. STATE VISIT WOULD ALSO BE OCCASION OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF JC.

5. WE LOOK TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JC AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA. WE SEE IT AS A CONSULTATIVE FORUM WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE ALREADY EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN TUNISIA AND UNITED STATES.

6. UPON RECEIPT GOT REACTIONS TO ABOVE PROPOSAL, WE WILL BE SENDING YOU PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON AGENDA FOR FIRST JC MEETING. KISSINGER

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